

It deals more with neuropharmacology than the physiological consequences of neurological damage. It would have been useful to have extended the author's approach to this system.

However, it is a valuable book at a modest price and can be widely recommended.

I.C.R.

THE EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF THE ACUTE ABDOMEN. By Sir Zachary Cope.

Fourteenth Edition. (Pp. 210, £1.20). London: Oxford University Press, 1972.

SIR ZACHARY COPE'S book is written and presented in a style no longer acceptable. Some of the content is repetitive, some imaginative and some irrelevant. Nevertheless, the author describes clinical facts and observations of value which we are in danger of overlooking today.

If the content of the book was re-styled to make it more incisive then, in a smaller contribution, we would have a more readable and more useful volume. In its present form its chief interest will be to those with clinical experience, who are prepared to plough through its pages to obtain the reminders and the insights which can undoubtedly be gleaned from it.

J.D.A.R.

PREVENTIVE MEDICINE, COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES. By J. B. Meredith Davies. Second Edition. (Pp. 331, £1.75).

London: Bailliere Tindall, 1971.

THIS is a small book containing a remarkable amount of information. For these reasons it has proved popular with medical undergraduates. In the second edition additional information is given on health centres, family planning and the social services. The author rightly points out the increasing importance of a knowledge of the social services to the practising doctor, especially in the care of the elderly, the mentally disordered, children in need and the handicapped.

Vital statistics, epidemiology and preventive medicine in general practice and the organisation of the health services are dealt with in other sections.

There is insufficient information on epidemiological methods of investigation and the use of these methods in studying health services.

Demographic factors, the population explosion, variation in biological characteristics, the methods of comparing two or more population groups are not adequately covered.

So far as it goes this is a useful book for medical students but to acquire the knowledge of social medicine now expected of the medical undergraduate additional reading is necessary especially concerning the above topics.

J.P.

GYNAECOLOGY ILLUSTRATED. By M. M. Garvey, A. D. T. Gowan, C. H.

Hodge and R. Callender. (Pp. xi+492. Illustrated. £3.00). Edinburgh and London: Churchill Livingstone, 1972.

THIS book is on similar lines to "Obstetrics Illustrated" which was published about three years ago; the emphasis is upon the visual presentation of the subject with a minimum of text. Liberal use has been made of line drawings and diagrams. The material contained in the nineteen chapters covers very adequately the range of diseases affecting the female genital tract. There are excellent up to date sections on gynaecological endocrine diseases, stress incontinence and radiotherapy. For obvious reasons some clinical lesions cannot be very adequately illustrated by this technique.

This book is aimed primarily at the undergraduate and towards this aim there is perhaps too much emphasis on surgical technique. There are no less than nine methods illustrated for the repair of vesico-vaginal fistula.

I consider this book a useful addition for the student - it is very easy perused and the knowledge readily assimilated. In this age of rapidly increasing prices, it is very welcome to see this new book of almost 500 pages produced for as little as £3.00.

W.T.